



# City of Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission

## Feedback on draft Charter and Final Report

1 February 2019

### *Comments on draft Charter*

Mike Gaynier

I have just one correction for the draft charter:

On page 10, first paragraph (B), the word "of" is missing at the end of the statement. *"of council"*

Jim Vail

I liked David Porter's suggestion re the preamble to the Charter. I think what we have drafted is fine, but we might be able to do better.

Here is very slightly modified version I would support, but am very concerned that we not get into word-smithing. Unless there is a clear majority in favor of this, I will withdraw my suggestion.

"We the people of the City of Cleveland Heights, to exercise the benefits of home rule and desiring to establish a responsive, effective and accountable government that maintains the highest level of integrity, provides an outstanding quality of life through excellent municipal services, and through which all voices in our diverse society can be heard, and to provide fair representation and distribution of government resources and a safe, harmonious, and sustainable environment based on principles of liberty and equality, do enact this Charter. "

Dr. Larry Keller

Suggested Preamble

We, the people of the City of Cleveland Heights (City), in the County of Cuyahoga and the State of Ohio, in order to secure for ourselves the benefits of local self-government under the Constitution of the State of Ohio (Constitution), and to provide a government that recognizes and promotes the diversity and quality of life so vital to our unique community so that all are represented and their pursuit of happiness promoted, do ordain and establish this First Amended Charter (Charter) for the government of the City.

Katie Solender

Can't help myself - here are my thoughts about how we might make the suggested preamble a little easier to read, as it's certainly one extremely long sentence. Just thoughts, hence not sharing with everyone.

"We the people of the City of Cleveland Heights, exercising the benefits of home rule and desiring 1) to establish a responsive, effective, and accountable government that maintains the highest level of integrity, provides an outstanding quality of life through excellent municipal services, and through which all voices in our diverse society can be heard, and 2) to establish fair representation and distribution of government resources and a safe, harmonious, and sustainable environment based on principles of liberty and equality, do enact this First Amended Charter. "

David Porter

Jack, here are links to some additional materials you may find interesting, or not :))

1. Bowling Green recently modified their preamble to include words of "welcoming"  
<http://bgindependentmedia.org/welcoming-language-inserted-in-city-charter-preamble/>  
[https://www.sent-trib.com/news/committee-agrees-to-bg-charter-preamble/article\\_2cc9c586-9bd3-11e8-8a17-b334a1f11e76.html?mode=jgm](https://www.sent-trib.com/news/committee-agrees-to-bg-charter-preamble/article_2cc9c586-9bd3-11e8-8a17-b334a1f11e76.html?mode=jgm)
2. Huntington California uses the preamble to amplify some of the Ethics concerns the Commission has incorporated  
<http://www.qcode.us/codes/huntingtonbeach/view.php?topic=charter-preamble>

Seattle also references ethics in their preamble

[https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal\\_code?nodeId=THCH\\_CHSE](https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=THCH_CHSE)

3. Some Florida communities use the preamble to refer to affirm values (two are Commission/manager, the other is mayor/Council).  
[https://www.largo.com/document\\_center/City%20Manager's%20Office/City%20Charter.pdf](https://www.largo.com/document_center/City%20Manager's%20Office/City%20Charter.pdf)  
<https://www.cityofpensacola.com/charter>  
<https://www.hollywoodfl.org/DocumentCenter/View/13314/-Preamble?bidId=>

Based on my relatively quick research, these sorts of preamble additions are by far an exception to the general rule of similarity. But as the Bowling Green article references, some folks want the preamble to make a statement for their city.

I certainly don't expect the Commission to spend much time crafting a unique statement at this late date. It might, however, want to discuss the possibility and provide an example or two for Council's consideration.

*Comments on draft Final Report*

Mike Gaynier

I have a few small corrections for our draft report:

The page 2 paragraph about Dr. Keller has a font issue with the word "charter."

The last paragraph on page 3 has an extra space "the----commission."

One page 9 in the ranked choice paragraph there is an extra line space.

One page 14 in the last paragraph, "charter" is misspelled.

On page 23, there is an extra space underlined ("ten years").

Katie Solender

As you know, I was away at a professional meeting this past week. I did have a chance to look at the Final Report and noticed one formatting issue - the bullet points on page 6 are not in alignment with those in the rest of the document